

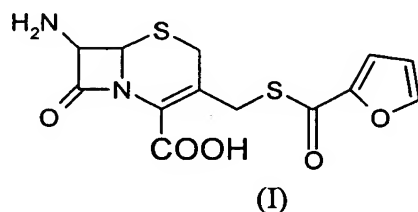
**Amendments to the Specification**

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 22, with the following rewritten paragraph:

To meet the above objectives, the present invention provides a process for the preparation of 7-amino-3-[2-(furylcarbonyl) thiomethyl]-3-cephem-4-carboxylic acid (I) by the condensation of 7-aminocephalosporanic acid (II) with furyl-2-carbonylthiol (III) in the presence of borontrifluoride at a temperature range of 20°-50°C in an organic solvent. This process gives high yields and excellent purity.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 2, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The present invention provides a process for the preparation of 7-amino-3-[2-(furylcarbonyl) thiomethyl]-3-cephem-4-carboxylic acid represented by formula (I),



the said process comprising the steps of condensing 7-aminocephalosporanic acid (II) with furyl-2-carbonylthiol (III) in the presence of borontrifluoride at 20°-50°C in an organic solvent and isolating the compound of formula (I).